THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
1800

Class F198
Book S495

F 198
S495
Copy 1

F198
S495
John Sessford

STATISTICS OF WASHINGTON.

IMPROVEMENTS IN 1860.

Exhibit of Improvements in Washington City in the year 1860.

	Seventh	Sixth	Fifth	Fourth	Third	Second	First	WARDS.			
4				—	—	10		4 story.	On front.	BRICK DWELLINGS.	
26	11		—	12	11	11	14	3 story.			
35	13	—	1	13	11	13	11	2 story.			
10						10		1 story.			
								3 story.	Back.		
12	—	—	—		—	10		2 story.			
								1 story.			
10		10		—		—	10	3 story.	Front.	WOOD.	
27	10	—	9	—	10			2 story.			
4								1 story.			
								3 story.	Back.		
2	—	—					—	2 story.			
								1 story.			
96	34	10	10	25	22	24	35	Total in the year.			
10	—	—	—	10	—	—	10	Shops, &c.			
20	10		—	10	10	10	10	Additions.			

The aqueduct bridge over Rock Creek is the connecting link between Georgetown and the city at the west end of Pennsylvania avenue. It rests on a double main of water pipes, of forty-two inches diameter each, over which is erected the bridge—a beautiful structure of iron, having a double carriage-way, with a substantial railing on each side, and with side footways. The abutments and roadway are all that is now required to make it passable for travel between the two cities, which will without doubt be done soon in 1861. The thirty-inch main from it has been laid through the length of the city to the Navy Yard. The only supply of water at present is from the Powder Mill branch. The main line of Government pipes in the city is along north K street and Massachusetts and New Jersey avenues to the Capitol grounds. A twenty-inch main has been laid on the line of south B street to the Capitol grounds, and on the north side of the Capitol uniting with the thirty-inch at New Jersey avenue.

FIRST WARD.—In this ward during the year various lines of pipes have been laid, connecting with the United States mains. There have been erected several substantial dwellings; also, a neat brick meeting and school-house has been erected near the boundary, on 20th street west. The Hook and Ladder building, which was burnt, has been rebuilt. The building erected by Mr. Wm. W. Corcoran for an Art Union is a splendid piece of workmanship, lofty, with a beautiful carved entrance of light brown stone, window-heads and columns of the same material, the whole resting on a basement story of thick stone walls and iron girders. The exterior of the building is nearly completed; it covers a space of 105 by 125 feet, and is now much admired by citizens and strangers, being at the corner opposite the War Office. The Equestrian Statue of Washington has been placed on its pedestal, and will soon be enclosed by an iron railing, affording a better protection than the present one.

SECOND WARD.—In this ward numerous water-mains have been laid, and a handsome two-story brick school-house has been erected on 14th and Q streets north. There have been but few other public improvements. An addition has been made to the Mission Church, on P, between 14th and 15th streets. The Presbyterian Church on New York avenue has been completed and occupied. It is a beautiful structure throughout, with a lofty and neat steeple, and is entered by a double flight of marble steps, with a portico of four marble columns. New York avenue has been reduced to its original grade, and gravelled from 13th to 14th streets, benefiting materially all the houses on both sides of that avenue, and affording additional light to the basements. On the line of 13th street the brick culvert has been extended from G to I, but this improvement was begun too late in the season to allow of the filling in to settle. 14th street has been paved from Pennsylvania avenue to north F, but not in accordance with the regulations for the improvement of streets, which require the centre of the street to be equal to the height of the pavement at the house line, affording room for the water to pass off in the gutters without spreading too much on the street.

THIRD WARD.—In this ward several water-mains have been laid. A new Corporation Guard-house has been erected on Louisiana avenue, with a steeple and bell. It is substantially built, and is an ornament to the street. It is now occupied, and the old one at the market has been abandoned. The Market-house is in bad condition, and a new one should be erected without delay, for it cannot be doubted that the additional income would be increased to an amount more than equal to the interest on its cost. The hall above would always be in demand for the Mechanic's Institute and many other exhibitions. At all events the east and west fronts, on 7th and 9th streets, should be done, and the unsightly sheds which are now on the square should be forthwith removed. The Presbyterian Church on 9th street, between G and H, has been greatly enlarged and very conveniently arranged for the congregation. It has a brick steeple at one corner. Preparations have been made for the erection of a new Southern Church at the corner of 9th and E streets west. A parsonage house has been erected on 9th street, between E and F, for the Methodist Protestant Church. Great progress has been made towards the completion of the Patent and Post Office buildings by the United States.

FOURTH WARD.—In this ward very little public improvement has been made. The Presbyterian Church on 4½ street has been completed and occupied. It has a large front, with a neat steeple and bell. The interior is well arranged and commodious. The light, on a dark day, is not sufficient, arising from the stained-glass windows. The Baptist Church on north E street has had a new and handsome front added, with new stairway entrances. It has two low, unsightly towers, one over each entrance, which spoil its appearance. Opposite to this church has been commenced the rear appendages of a large Metropolitan Presbyterian Free Church, fronting on E street. The Colonization Society have erected on the corner of Penn- [illegible] story building. The lower story is of iron, divided for stores; above it is of light-colored stone, and ornamented windows, with a balustrade on the top. On the north side of Pennsylvania avenue has been erected a lofty five-story building, with a light-colored stone front. On the south side of the avenue, between 6th and 7th streets, there have been erected two beautiful buildings, four stories high, with iron fronts, having gothic windows, (in place of two old houses pulled down,) which add much to the beauty of those squares. The grounds between 4½ and 6th streets and between Missouri avenue and the canal have been much improved by laying them out in gravel walks and flower beds, and by the erection of a house for the propagating of plants, and a house for the preservation of seeds, &c. The footways have been curbed and paved from 3d to 6th street. A commencement has been made in the improvement of the City Hall square by the erection of a substantial iron rail enclosure. This, when completed, will be an important improvement. Another important improvement, much wanted, is the extension of the west front of the Hall northwards, which would afford sufficient room for a new Council Chamber on a line with the present Aldermen's room. It would also afford other rooms, which are much wanted.

FIFTH WARD.—In this ward but little has been done by the city. Great progress has been made towards the completion of the Capitol, in preparing the east entrances, which have deep foundations and substantial brick work for the reception of the steps and columns. The dome has already been carried up to above the second circular range of columns, presenting even now a fine appearance. A vast amount of materials are on hand, consisting of marble columns, &c. A handsome improvement has been made to the Roman Catholic Church on 2d street east, by the erection of a neat steeple, with a fine-toned bell.

SIXTH WARD.—Sixth street has been graded from Pennsylvania to Maryland avenue, and some other improvements of less consequence have been made.

SEVENTH WARD.—One or two streets have been graded and gravelled. A line of footway has been laid on the north side of south B, from 7th to 14th street west, by the United States, and also a line of twenty-inch water-mains laid, to connect with those on Pennsylvania avenue, and from thence to 1st street west, and around the north side of the Capitol.

This communication closes the fiftieth year since I commenced my labors of ascertaining the number of dwellings erected in each year, together with the additions, shops, &c. My labors have been altogether voluntary, costing a deal of labor, and sometimes expense.

DECEMBER 31, 1860. JOHN SESSFORD, Sr.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
1800

Class F198
Book S495

F 198
.S495
Copy 1

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
0 020 994 680 4